

Vol 1, no 2
Dear Sisters,

march 1975

We know you have been awaiting information regarding the National Meeting. Below you will find the tentative agenda. We expect each chapter to designate one woman as a delegate whose purpose will be to represent her group in all discussions and will be expected to be the sole spokeswoman. It is essential that all chapters have some interchange of ideas before the National Meeting and have a general agreement on what each chapter would like to see in the constitution and by-laws. You will be receiving as soon as possible the additions we have developed for the previously suggested by-laws.

Only members of NBFO will be allowed to attend the National Meeting. It is therefore, requested that all chapters send the names of all women intending to attend as well as a list of their paid members immediately to the New York office. This is to avoid any discrepancies in records and pre-registration. The tentative agenda is as follows:

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Friday, April 4th, 1975

7:p.m. Registration
7:30 Welcome - Guest Speaker
8:15 Explanation of Procedure
for Discussion and Voting
8:30 Discussion
Purpose and Philosophy of NBFO
Current and Long Range Goals
Directions for the Future

Concern with enlarging our Black Feminist
Perspective and critique of society, research, etc.

Project oriented and concern with concrete
political action-lobbying, public positions on issues,
independent and with other organizations, etc.

Issues to concentrate on for 1975 -Time
Table and priorities
11: Adjourn

Saturday, April 5, 1975

9:a.m. Discussion
Constitution; Membership, National Structure and Function
Coordinating Council Members and their function
Elections and the Convention
12:00 LUNCH

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DR. EDELIN CONVICTED...BIAS, MISAPPREHENSION, PREJUDICE

On Feb. 15, 1975, Dr. Kenneth C. Edelin was found guilty of manslaughter by a jury in Boston, Mass. for performing a LEGAL ABORTION on a seventeen year old Black woman. He was sentenced to a one year's probation. Dr. Edelin's defense lawyer is presently appealing the conviction and a defense fund has been established to pay for this appeal. The motion to appeal was filed on Feb. 20, 1975 and maintained that the verdict was the result of "...BIAS, MISAPPREHENSION OR PREJUDICE," on the part of the jury and should be nullified by the Judge as a "...MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE." The motion asked for a 'NOT GUILTY' verdict or an order for a new trial. There are those who believe that the trial had very strong racial and religious overtones. There have been reports of racial slurs from one or more members of the jury in reference to Dr. Edelin, a Black man. Professor Ramona Hoage Edelin, Ken Edelin's wife reflects on the racial angle..."what realistically do they care about a Black fetus?" Prof. Edelin is Head of the African-American Studies Dept. at Northeastern Univ. She went on to say..."Yes, everyone has a right to life, but we Blacks have a right to starve and the right to be spit upon, all in the name of an insane morality. These same people are spitting and throwing rocks at Black children going to school on a bus."

Another clear cut example of the bias to be found in the courtrooms and among many members of any jury in Boston is the fact that the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts is predominantly Roman Catholic-abortion is the damned alternative according to the doctrine of the Catholic church.

The controversial abortion was performed at Boston City Hospital, on Oct. 3, 1973. Dr. Edelin has performed other abortions--yet this particular case was taken to the courtroom in Boston. The Judge who ruled on Dr. Edelin's case said "...manslaughter cannot be committed upon a fetus, ONLY UPON A PERSON." According to Dr. Edelin "...Black women have been denied good health care."

Dr. Edelin has spoken honorably on the right of women to choose whether or not to have a child. Support is being sought by PRO-ABORTIONISTS everywhere to refute the fears of abortion practice among hospitals and clinics. Since Dr. Edelin's conviction some hospitals in Boston have changed their policy; doctors are more apprehensive.

One fact not to be overlooked: the controversial abortion Dr. Edelin performed upon request of his patient and which he was later tried and convicted for -- was a LEGAL ABORTION according to the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Amelia Headley

News of National interest may be sent to the NBFO, 285 Madison Ave. NYC 10017

Support your local Planned Parenthood Center--listings may be found in your local telephone directory. Children have the right to be wanted and loved... women have the right to choose.

BLACK GRAPEVINE

LOS ANGELES: meets at the members homes on a weekly basis. Officers were elected at the meeting in Feb. The members are seeking to structure their branch and zero in on particular issues; goals are being

set. Continuing C/R groups and open discussion on pertinent issues such as "How I see myself as a Black woman" prevail.
Due to the first issue of the NBFO Newsletter the LA branch has re-

ceived inquiries from interested Sisters on college campus' as well as from individuals up and down the coast. Plus the Newsletter put several women who have contacted the National office in NYC in touch with their own local branch-uniting and focusing their attention locally. LA is hoping to send a Rep. to Detroit 4/4-6! Fund raising ideas for their branch abound-including selling Soul Food dinners.

Bernice Mattingly, one of the founders of the LA branch appeared on KCOP-TV, Channel 13 on the "LA Women Show" in Feb. and discussed the "needs of women." Ms. Leslie Newman, the moderator, was so pleased with Sister Mattingly's participation that she invited her back to do a sequel which will encompass an overview of the many women's organizations in Calif. Also in the near future a Rep. of NBFO-LA will speak on the campus of El Camino College; topic: Black Feminism. NBFO-LA is in touch with a group called "Concerned Parents"; the group addresses itself to the problems involved with a Black child's education in the public school system-which comes to us complete with inferior teachers and out of date materials.

NBFO-LA is also in touch with a group in San Francisco called "Black Women Organized For Action" and a group called "Black Female Enterprise" which publishes a Newsletter in the Bay Area.

During the next few months NBFO-LA will concentrate on Black Education; Black Motherhood; Black Female Enterprises and the Black Woman in Politics. Ms. Bernice Mattingly, NBFO 3406 Garden Ave. LA. Calif. 90039

KANSAS CITY: moving right along on a political bent; March 9th the Mayoralty candidates discussed concerns of women and other minorities in an open forum at the Linwood Multi-Purpose Center; sponsored by the K.C. branch of NBFO along with the Minority Women's Coalition for Human Rights,

United Minority Media Ass., Women's Law Caucus, Women's Liberation Union, National Welfare Rights Organization, & the Women's Political Caucus---alot of women in K.C. united to fight for our rights. Issues that were covered at the forum include DAY CARE, HEALTH PROGRAMS, CITY EMPLOYMENT, RAPE, CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, POLICE DEPT. EDUCATION & PUBLIC HOUSING, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, HOMESTEAD ACT, REVENUE SHARING and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. At the March meeting they presented a slide show to back up discussion on women's health care. There are 25 members with an extensive mailing list. Elected Officers are Lodis Coleman, Chairwoman; Judith Cooke, Vice Chairwoman; Patricia Brown, Secretary; and Brenda Wright, Treasurer. Ms. Coleman participated in an International Women's Year Symposium recently for all local women. The theme focused on "Women in Democracy." NBFO Kansas City, Mo. 64114

PHILADELPHIA: is really getting together and expanding. We are beginning to get requests for speaking engagements and will be observing International Women's Day by participating in several IWD programs, among which is "Learning to Fly," on FM Radio WUHY, which will be held on Radio Free Women. An International Women's Year celebration sponsored by Phila. NBFO is contemplated for the autumn. Right now, however, we are considering the possibilities of: holding a forum on racism and classicism in the spring, strategies for launching public reform in employment practices in Phila. and planning and participation in the Second Annual NBFO conference. Things to look for in subsequent Newletters: more info about the Founder's personal battle with the Phila. USO on racism and sexism as well as NBO'S public statements on pertinent issues concerning the Black woman.

Ms. Anita Cornwell, NBFO, Penn. Women Center, Rm. 112, Logan Hall, Univ. of Pa. Phila. Pa. 19104

HOUSTON- Ms. Brenda Lewis just moved to Houston from the D. C. branch. She is looking forward to beginning an active NBFO branch in Texas. So you Sisters in or near Houston can contact Ms. Lewis to start getting it on:
9717 Timberside #79, Houston, Texas 77025, Tele. # 713-668-0251

DETROIT: Ms. Janet Salters, NBFO
2467 Helen St. Detroit, Mich. 48207
313-924-5604

ATLANTA: contact Ms. Sandra Holland Flowers, NBFO 528 Beck-with Court S.W., Atlanta 30314
404-688-5184

BUFFALO: contact Ms. Margaret Snell Kozak, NBFO, 179 Jersey St. Buffalo, N.Y. 14201, 716-881-6184

RALEIGH: contact Ms. Beverly Mitchell, NBFO, 1110 Schaub Dr. #H Raleigh, N.C.

D.C.: NBFO, P.O. 3086, Wash. D.C. 20009. Making plans to attend the Nat'l. Meeting in Detroit.

WESTCHESTER: Ms. Jane Wilson, NBFO
415 Gramatan Ave. Mt. Vernon, NY 10552, 914-664-6822 or 6557

BOSTON: Ms. Demita Frazier, NBFO
26A Moultrie, Dorchester, Mass. 02124

CHICAGO: Ms. Brenda Eichelberger, NBFO 4940 South East End. Ave. 7C Chicago, Ill. 60615, 312-241-5598

NATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

continued...

1:30-2 p.m. Presentation of Creative Writing - N.Y.
2:30 Discussion

By-Laws

Chapter guidelines,
Forming - number of members
Independent functioning and
limits; Geographical boundaries;
DUES; Committees and National activities

5:p.m. ADJOURN

8:p.m, Women's Coffee House

Sunday, April 6, 1975

9:a.m. Review of Goals, Constitution and By-Laws

10:a.m. Questions

11:a.m. ADJOURN

Housing will be provided by the Sisters in Detroit free of charge by those hosting the National Meeting for those who request.

Child care will be provided for those interested.

Hotel Information:

Howard Johnson 313-872-0400

Single \$25.00, Double \$32.00

Cavalier Motel 313-869-8500

Single \$12.00, Double \$12.00

Holiday Inn 313-883-4550

Single \$16.50, Double \$23.50

National Black Feminist Organization Newsletter
285 Madison Avenue, Room 1720
New York, New York 10017